

Forest Site Preparation

WV Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Code 490



Definition

Treating areas to improve site conditions for establishing a forest.

Purpose

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

Considerations

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect any desirable vegetation and cultural resources.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard. Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled by appropriate erosion control practices. Soil compaction and displacement will be minimized.

All chemicals will be applied in accordance with label guidelines.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice including Technical Guide Reference "Best Management Practices for Controlling Soil Erosion and Sedimentation from Logging Operations in West Virginia (WVDOF-TR-96-3).

The site preparation method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, water resources, and identified unique areas.

Visual quality objectives should be considered when selecting site preparation methods. Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

Operation and Maintenance

Practice areas should be checked periodically, but especially in the first three to six months to see if additional control of competition is needed to ensure survival of desired vegetation.

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and

shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See the WV conservation practice standard for Forest Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements.

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Client:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Designed By:	Location:
Date:	Total Acres:

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants NOTE: Natural regeneration requires an adequate seed source, exposing mineral soil and preparing an adequate seed bed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit artificial establishment of woody plants NOTE: Refer to WV Conservation Practice Standard (612) Tree/Shrub Establishment and associated job sheet(s).

Site Preparation Method (Refer to WV Practice Standard Forest Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)				
Field	Acres	Method ¹	Planned Date	Remarks

Specify method ¹, - Options are:

<u>Chemical</u>	NRCS does not make pesticide recommendations. Contact the local office of the West Virginia Division of Forestry or the WVU Cooperative Extension Service for assistance. Clients should request the product name, strength and amount used. All chemicals must be applied in accordance with label guidelines
<u>Hand</u>	Cutting - may be needed for sites with undesirable brush Scalping - used in areas of heavy sod, especially fescue, or weed cover, an area 36 inches in diameter should be cleared with subsequent plant placement in the center of the scalped area
<u>Mechanical</u>	Mowing - used for abandoned pasture and cropland Harrowing, Disking, Tilling or Plowing - used for cleared areas, sodded areas and on areas lightly covered with brush Furrowing - used in areas too rocky for planting machines, not to be used in areas with heavy clay soils and high water tables Bedding - used in areas with high water tables, that are not wetlands Brushhogging or Blading - removal of all vegetation using a brushhog or straight-blade dozer

NOTE: More than one of the above options may be used in combination on some sites.

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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Additional Specifications and Notes: (I.e. condition of site prior to site preparation, operation and maintenance specifics, etc.)

Questions regarding the planting or maintenance of the tree/shrub establishment should be directed to:

_____ at _____

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